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Sen. Brown Welcomes Michigan Guardsmen Home

1437th Engineer Company first in state to return from Operation Iraqi Freedom

THURSDAY, July 31, 2003 – Michigan today honored the first National Guard Unit to return from deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, at a rally in the state’s capital.

The 180 members of the 1437th Engineer Company from Sault Ste. Marie, with additional soldiers from Bay City, Grand Rapids and Ishpeming, left Michigan in January.

“While in Sault Ste. Marie for a senate task force hearing on Monday night, I observed the love and dedication that community has for the 1437th,” said Sen. Cameron Brown, chair of the Military and Veterans Affairs Appropriations subcommittee. “These soldiers join the ranks of those in our history, from the Revolutionary War forward, as veterans who deserve our thanks and recognition for the price that they have paid to defend our freedoms.”

The 1437th built portable bridges on the Tigris River while stationed in Iraq.

“We welcome the 1437th back to Michigan and give our heartfelt thanks for their sacrifice and that of their families,” said Brown, R-Fawn River Township. “Our thoughts and prayers are with the many remaining Michigan soldiers still serving in Iraq and other outposts around the world.”